

48. The method of claim 47, wherein said bacterium has been attenuated by introducing at least one mutation selected from:

- opl*
- a mutation of a gene selected from *aro*, *asd*, *pur* and *pyr* genes;
 - a mutation of a gene selected from *aroA*, *aroB*, *aroC*, *aroD*, *aroL*, *purA*, *purB*, *purE*, *pyrA*, *pyrB* and *pyrE* ; and
 - a *recA* mutation.
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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been cancelled. Claims 25-48 are pending in this application. No new matter has been introduced by this Preliminary Amendment, which is to be entered prior to calculation of the filing fee.

The change in the specification at page 4, line 31, does not introduce new matter. Although the *pur E* gene has been added to this sentence, there is support elsewhere in the application (such as page 5, line 28 and original claim 7) for *pur E*.

The changes at pages 25 and 26 of the specification correct a typographical error in the units. It is submitted that "micro" units, such as micro-liters and micro-grams, are normal units of volume and weight for laboratory manipulations in this art, of the kinds described in the relevant portions of the specification, and that for the particular materials referred to, grams and liters are not normal units. One skilled in the art who read the specification would recognize that the "micro" symbols had been inadvertently omitted by typographical error, as indicated by the additional blank space that had been left before each of these units. This knowledge would be further corroborated by other units in the specification where a micro-symbol was correctly placed in the text, e.g. at page 30, line 22. It is therefore believed that these corrections do not constitute new matter.

In the present amendment, many of the claims have been rewritten, but no new matter added.

New claim 25 finds support in original claim 19, and at page 22, line 15; new claim 26 finds support in original claim 3; new claim 27 finds support in original claims 18 and 19, and in the specification at page 22, line 15; new claims 28-41 find support in original claims 1-14; new claim 42 finds support in original claims 15 and 16; new claim 43 finds support in original claim 17; new claim 44 finds support in original claim 18; new claim 45 finds support in original claims 20-21; new claim 46 finds support in original claim 22; new claim 47 finds support in original claim 23; and new claim 48 finds support in original claim 24.

It is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor issues remain to be addressed, the examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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